



Session Four: The Greatest Commandment

Today's Point: God gives us commands and we are to follow them.

Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 6:5

CSB: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
Deuteronomy 6:5

KJV: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. Deuteronomy 6:5

Today's Bible Skill:

- Begin to memorize Deuteronomy 6:5
- Review the names of the 5 books in the division of Law in the Old Testament.
- Introduce the names of the 12 books in the division of History in the Old Testament.

Bible Truth Activity:

Activity: Things I Love (adapted from growingkidsfortheKingdome.com/teaching-kids-love-god/ with permission)

Materials:

Poster board (2), marker

Preparation:

Draw a large heart in the center of each piece of posterboard.

Instructions:

SAY: We are going to start tonight by talking about the things that we love. Let's see what the Bible says.
READ Deuteronomy 6:5 from your Bible. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. Deuteronomy 6:5

SAY: The Bible says that we should love God – with ALL of our heart. It is okay to love other people and other things because God has given us so much to love. But he wants us to love him first and the most. Let's see what happens when we don't love God first.

ASK: Ask kids to name different things that they love. Write each thing mentioned inside the heart (be sure to get enough things that the heart is filled up).

Once it is full, look at them and say "Now how are we going to love God the most with such a little space? Is there enough room left to love God with all our heart?" Let's see if we can fix that. Show them the second heart. Let's add GOD first. Write GOD in the middle of the heart as big as you can. As you begin adding the items from the first heart SAY: We can put in the other things that we love, just smaller, but we can still love them too.

Let's find Deuteronomy 6:5 in our Bibles. When you find it put your finger on the verse. Offer help if needed. Read the verse aloud together.

SAY: Now I want us to turn to Mark, which is in the New Testament, Chapter 12, verses 28-30. Allow time for kids to locate verses.

Read verses from your Bible. “One of the scribes approached. When he heard them debating and saw that Jesus answered them well, he asked him, “Which command is the most important of all?” Jesus answered, “The most important is Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”

ASK: What Jesus say was the greatest commandment? [Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength]

SAY: What does it mean to love God this way?

First - With all your heart – means you choose to love God every day – when things are good and when they aren’t so good. You show your love for God by spending time with him and keeping his commandments. You show your love for God through your actions, your attitudes, your words.

With all your soul – Explain that the soul is the spiritual part of a person that part that will live forever. When you love God with all your soul you love him first and put him first.

With all your mind - Filling your mind – your thoughts – with things that are pleasing to God.

With all your strength - your strength is your energy, your time, the things you do.

To love God completely you must love him with your heart, your soul, your mind, and your strength. Your entire life – your actions, your attitudes, your words, have to focus on loving God.

Pray: Thank God for loving us and ask him to help kids love him with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength.

Bible Verse Activity: Bible Verse Cover Up

Materials:

Poster board, markers, sticky notes – 2 colors

Preparation:

Print the verse on poster board

Instructions:

Form two teams and assign one of the sticky note colors to each team.

Let the whole group say the verse together a couple of times, then let the teams take turns covering a portion of the verse with a sticky note. After each sticky note is placed the opposite team must say the verse. Continue until the entire verse is covered and both teams are able to say the verse.

Bible Skills Activity: Pass the Marble

Materials:

Bible – one for each group

Paper towel roll – one for each child

Marble – one per group

Books of the Bible Flashcards – two sets per group – use Books of History cards

Instructions:

Review: The books in the Old Testament are part of a division. In the Old Testament the Divisions are (bring attention to the division signs from last week): Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, and Minor Prophets.

The Division of Law has 5 books – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Lead kids to form a circle of five or less. Give each child a paper towel roll. Place a marble inside the first kid's tube and challenge her to roll the marble carefully to the player on her right while saying the first book of the Old Testament Books of Law (Genesis). The next player transfers the marble to the next player's tube while saying the next book (Exodus). The goal is to transfer the marble saying all five books at least twice, without dropping it. If a player drops the marble, the next player should begin with Genesis again.

After each group has successfully completed Pass the Marble Say: This week we are going to add the Division of History. It has 12 books – Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, 2 Kings, 1 Chronicles, 2 Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Divide kids into groups of 4-5. Mix up the Books of History cards and lay them out on the floor or table before each group. Have kids take turns turning over two cards at a time, trying to find a match. If a match is found, the kid gets to hold the cards. To allow all kids to participate, pass the play to the next player after every play. The player with the most pairs at the end wins.

Variation: Play again but matches must be found in order.